

App. No. 09/734,262

Response to Office Action of April 16, 2004

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 6-8. Claims 6-8 stand rejected. In this Response, claims 6-8 have been amended, claims 9-11 have been added, and no claims have been cancelled. Thus, claims 6-11 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

In Office Action paragraph 4, claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe (Japanese Published Patent Application No. 7-107294). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The claims have been amended to clarify the features of the present invention of weighting to a noticed pixel value and the pixel value of circumference pixels of the noticed pixel, blending two or more pixel values which gave the weighting, and outputting as a noticed pixel. See the examples of pixel blending in the specification at pages 48-53 and Fig. 22, step S138, and Fig. 23, step S148. Claims 6-8 have been amended to clarify the feature of blending at least two pixel values which gave the weighting.

Turning to Watanabe, the picture coding equipment which purportedly increases the reproducibility of a picture is indicated by preventing picture degradation of the edge portion of the picture. In Watanabe, the pixel is only calculated by weighted of the pixel value. However, in the present invention, the pixel is calculated by weighting of the pixel value and blending two or more pixel values which gave the weighting. Watanabe does not disclose or suggest blending two or more pixel values.

Moreover, in Applicants' invention, weighting means perform weighting for pixel values when there is no boundary line on left-hand and right-hand sides of the noticed pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and lower sides of the noticed pixel. Conversely, Watanabe does not provide pixel processing based on the boundary information around a pixel.

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Applicants' invention provides advantages. For example, an embodiment of the present invention can remove the jaggy edge of a picture easily by performing weighting to the pixel value of a pixel and to the pixel values of juxtaposed pixels and blending two or more pixels which gave the weighting. Further, the jaggy edge can be removed with a simplified configuration according to Applicants' invention. However, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest such advantages.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the §103 rejections should be withdrawn.

Applicants also submit that claims 9-11 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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